computerized all its operations and excepting 13 branches, all the remaining 2035 branches are networked enabling premium acceptance and policy enquiry across any branch. LIC has also initiated steps to open Satellite Offices in hitherto unrepresented areas.

(c) Market share and profitability are two different issues and the market share may not have any direct bearing on the profitability of the business of the Corporation as long as it is writing the level of business which it had planned for, keeping its resources in mind.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of Neyveli Lignite Corporation

1636. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cabinet has accorded approval for disinvestment of Neyveli Lignite Corporation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

Protection of consumers' interest in credit cards system

1637. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out a study to assess the impact of the credit cards schemes launched by various banks, on the interests of consumers and their savings with the banks especially in the context of the vigorous drives by the banks to promote credit cards system;

(b) if so, the result of the study; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to protect and promote the consumers' interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pursuant to the announcement of Mid-term Review of the Annual Policy statement for the year 2004-05 in October, 2004, a Working Group was constituted in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to examine the regulatory and customer protection aspects of credit cards and suggest measures for card usage in a safe, secure and customer-friendly manner.

The Working Group has suggested various regulatory measures aimed at encouraging growth of credit card business in an efficient manner as well as to ensure that the rules, regulations standards and practices of the card issuing banks are in alignment with best customer practices.

(c) Indian Bank's Association formed a Working Group of look into the issues and evolve a Fair Practice Code for credit card issuers and a Model Code of Conduct for Direct Selling Agents. The Group has finalized the Fair Practice Code for Credit Card Operations and Model Code of Conduct for Direct Sales Agents (DSAs). Government/RBI also refer specific complaints received from individual/association relating to credit card with concerned banks for redressal and appropriate remedial action.

High churn rates in mutual funds industry

1638. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry and SEBI are concerned about high churn rates in the mutual fund industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to control churn rates by mutual fund companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) It is for investors in individual schemes to examine whether the chrun that has taken place in a particular period is consistent with the interest of the investors. In the event of dissatisfaction, the investor would ordinarily exit such schemes and deploy those funds with either investment managers or asset management companies. Sales of units of mutual funds normally takes place through mutual fund distributors who are certified by Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). SEBI